

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 INRE-00 OIC-04 SCI-06 AGR-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12

PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 EA-11 NEA-10 EURE-00 /210 W
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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9276

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OECD PARIS 9709

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD SECRETARIAT ATTENDANCE AT GATT PREPCOM AND MTN
MEETINGS

REF: (A) USOECD 06546 (B) GENEVA 1414 (C) C(73)66 (D) C(67)45

1. SUMMARY. SECGEN VAN LENNEP HAS GIVEN NOTICE THAT HE WILL RAISE INCOUNCIL APRIL 10 QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL OBSERVER STATUS OF GATT AND OECD SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL AT MEETINGS OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS. QUESTION ARISES AS A RESULT OF OLIVIER LONG' S REFUSAL TO INVITE OECD SECRETARIAT TO ATTEND FIRST PREPCOM MEETING AND HIS APPARENT RELUCTANCE TO INVITE OECD SECRETARIAT TO ATTEND FUTURE PREPCOM AND MTN MEETINGS. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF US POSITION AS RECOMMENDED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. VAN LENNEP BRIEFLY REFERRED TO THIS QUESTION IN COUNCIL LAST WEEK AND SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO
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RESOLVE MATTER AT EARLIEST DATE WITH COUNCIL' S SUPPORT. RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT FOR OBSERVER STATUS FOR TWO SECRETARIATS TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF EACH ORGANIZATION GO BACK TO EARLY DAYS OF OEEC AND WERE RECONFIRMED BY FORMAL UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN WYNDHAM WHITE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF GATT, AND MR. KRISTENSEN, SEC GEN OF OECD IN 1961 (REF D). OECD SECRETARIAT HAS INFORMED MISSION THAT IT HAD AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO ATTEND GATT MEETINGS IN OBSERVER STATUS UNTIL THIS YEAR WHEN NO INVITATION RECEIVED TO ATTEND PREPCOM MEETING. FOR ITS PART, OECD SECRETARIAT AUTOMATICALLY INVITES GATT SECRETARIAT TO ATTEND OECD COMMITTEE MEETINGS WHICH TOUCH ON TRADE MATERS. THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN CONFORMITY WITH 1961 KRISTENSEN- WYNDHAM- WHITE AGREEMENT. VAN LENNEP AND PERMDELS HERE ARE DISTURBED AT LONG' S APPARENTLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE AND MANY FEEL THAT QUESTION SHOULD NEVER HAVE ARISEN.

IN ORDER TO PUT MATTER TO RIGHTS, VAN LENNEP IS PROPOSING THAT LETTER (REF C) BE SENT FROM HIM TO LONG RECALLING 1961 AGREEMENT AND STRONGLY IMPLYING THAT IN APPLICATION THEREOF LONG SHOULD CONTINUE TO INVITE OECD SECRETARIAT TO ATTEND CURRENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS HELD IN FRAMEWORK OF GATT.

3. AS REPORTED REF A, MISSION BELIEVES DESIRABILITY OECD SECRETARIAT ATTENDANCE CURRENT AND FUTURE GATT MEETINGS SELF- EVIDENT. GIVEN CURRENT IMPORTANT TRADE AND TRADE- RELATED WORK IN XCSS, TC, AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, AND RELATED SUB- GROUPYCON HOST OF PROBLEMS INN MUDING SAFEGUARDS, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, NTBS, EXPORT CREDITS, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES, AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROBLEMS, CASE FOR OECD ATTENDANCE AT GATT MEETINGS PERHAPS STRONGER NOW THAN EVER BEFORE. MISSION CONCOUDES, THEREFORE, THAT RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS AGREED TO OVER TTWENTY YEARS AGO SHOULD CONTINUE IN FUTURE AND THAT WORKING ASSUMPTION SHOULD BE THAT OECD SECRETARIAT SHOUDL BE INVITED TO ALL IMPORTANT GATT MEETINGS.

4. MISSION BELIEVES US SHOULD ACQUIESCE IN VAN LENNEP- LONG LETTER IF CONSENSUS OF COUNCIL SUPPORTS IT. WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT ALTERNATIVE MEANS MIGHT BE CON-
SIDERED THAT WOULD RUN LESS RISK OF AGGRAVATING
RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO SECRETARIATS. WE WOULD
PROPOSE, AS PREFERABLE APPROACH, THAT OECD COUNCIL AGREE
THAT MEMBER COUNTRY DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA INFORM LONG
THEY STRONGLY SUPPORT CONTINUED APPLICATION OF 1961
AGREEMENT AND SPECIFICALLY SUPPORT OECD SECRETARIAT
ATTENDANCE AT PREPCOM AND MTN MEETINGS. MISSION
RECONGNIZES THERE MIGHT LATER BE HIGHLY SENSITIVE PHASES
OF NEGOTIATIONS WHERE ATTENDANCE OECD SECRETARIAT MIGHT
NOT BE APPROPRIATE. PROCEDURES FOR EXCLUDING OBSERVERS
IN SELECTED CASES EXIST IN OECD AND ALL INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. SUCH CASES COULD BE
DETERMINED ON AD HOC BASIS, BUT PRESUMPTION SHOULD BE
THAT OECD SECRETARIAT ATTEND ALL MEETINGS.
BROWN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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